



GREG COX
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

October 19, 2006

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

RE: WESTERN SALT WORKS SITE ASSESSMENT AND SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY TRAIL LINKAGES. File No. 06-081

I am writing to express my full support of staff's recommendation to disburse \$125,000 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to study adaptive reuse of the Western Salt Building and adjacent trail alignments.

The Western Salt Building, which is being considered for Historic designation, is located on the bayfront in South San Diego Bay. It sits at the confluence of the Otay River and the Otay Valley Regional Park, the Bayshore Bikeway and the Coronado Beltline, a railroad designated historic by the City of San Diego.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently completing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Western Salt Building is also adjacent to the Refuge.

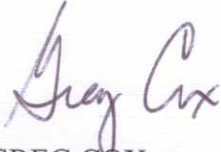
Given its proximity to the Refuge, the Bikeway and the Otay Valley Regional Park and its ideal location on San Diego Bay, I believe the Western Salt Building is well suited for adaptive reuse to highlight the history of solar salt production in San Diego Bay and the natural history of the wildlife inhabiting the Refuge. This concept is highly worthy of further study by SANDAG. I fully support the Coastal Conservancy's funding of this

Mr. Doug Bosco
October 19, 2006
Page 2

study, which is in keeping with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. I respectfully request your support of this item.

If you have any questions regarding the Western Salt Building project or the associated trails, please do not hesitate to call me at (619) 531-5511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Greg Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and the last name "Cox" clearly distinguishable.

GREG COX
Supervisor, First District

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



City of Imperial Beach, California

www.cityofib.com

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DIANE ROSE

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

October 18, 2006

RE: Western Salt Works Site Assessment and South San Diego Bay Trail Linkages

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the State Coastal Conservancy Grant request submitted by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

SANDAG has the primary role in planning and implementation of the Bayshore Bikeway, as well as other regional bike and pedestrian trails, and coordinates regional planning efforts in the area of land-use. The sources of funds for the proposed project are the Conservancy's Coastal Access Account and Proposition 50, appropriation from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal Beach Protection fund.

SANDAG's proposed project is to conduct an access study of the area of south San Diego Bay near the mouth of the Otay River to determine optimal alignments of public trails, in this case the Bayshore Bikeway, and the feasibility of possible future use of the Western Salt Building for interpretive facilities. This proposal utilizes legislation stating that the conservancy plays a "principal role in the implementation of a system of public access ways to and along the state's coastline and thus will play a primary role to develop a public access plan for the South San Diego Bay front."

The project site includes the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista and attracts more than 14.2 million visitors annually to its beaches and recreational amenities. The grant and subsequent study is essential to the city of Imperial Beach as it will include analysis of the Bayshore bikeway, a regional trail system used by bicyclists and pedestrians that when completed will go completely around the bay. Also, thanks to Coastal Conservancy funding Imperial Beach is moving ahead on our ecotourism program, and we believe the proposed SANDAG study will be beneficial to ecotourism throughout the South Bay.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and hope you'll find it worthy of funding.

Sincerely,

Diane Rose
Mayor

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2006

COASTAL
OAKLAND, CALIF. JY

825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Tel: (619) 423-8303 fax: (619) 628-1395



Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

RE: WESTERN SALT WORKS SITE ASSESSMENT AND SOUTH SAN DIEGO
BAY TRAIL LINKAGES. File No. 06-081

I am writing to express my support of staff's recommendation to disburse \$125,000 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to study adaptive reuse of the Western Salt Building and adjacent trail alignments.

The Bayshore Bikeway, an important bicycle corridor in the County, and the Western Salt Building and adjacent trail alignments are important parts of that bikeway. We believe that the Western Salt Building is well suited for adaptive reuse to highlight the history of solar salt production in San Diego Bay and the natural history of the wildlife inhabiting the Refuge. Increasing the public's access to the important historical, cultural, and natural features in the area would improve the experience for trail users while emphasizing to them the importance of conserving and treasuring these same features. The Coalition believes that the concept is definitely worth further study by SANDAG and we respectfully request your support for the Western Salt Works Site Assessment and South San Diego Bay Trail Linkages.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please feel free to email or telephone me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Keehan
Executive Director

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum

4695 Nebo Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941-5259

October 23, 2006


Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, I would like to express our enthusiastic support for the request of funding to study the opportunities of bringing together historical resources in the South Bay region of San Diego County. The opportunity to plan bike routes, railroad excursions and historic reuse of the Western Salt Flats should be explored in a cohesive planning effort. The requested funds meet this demand head on.

If the plans show that the synergies of bring together these purposes would work, we look forward to expanding our operations in the County with excursions on the Coronado Beltline Railroad. We appreciate the opportunity to explore the issue, and, the funding requested will bring that forward.

Sincerely,


James J. Lundquist
President

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

A California Non-Profit, Public Benefit Corporation, IRS Tax # 95-2374478

Owners and operators of the Campo Railroad Museum,
San Diego & Arizona Railway and the La Mesa Depot Museum

October 30, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA), a 501©3 non profit since 1979, supports your staff recommendation for authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to conduct a study of the area of south San Diego Bay near the mouth of the Otay River to determine optimal alignments of public trails and the feasibility of the possible future use of the Western Salt Works building for interpretive facilities.

SWIA has been actively involved with the California Coastal Conservancy (CCC) since 1981 when we established the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

SWIA played a major role in establishing the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge from 1979 until its acquisition in June of 1999.

In 1986 SWIA partnered with the CCC and Michael Brandman and Associates to do the studies for the Lower Otay River Enhancement Plan which led to the purchase agreement for acquisition of the Ghio Family property within the property boundary discussed in this recommended authorization. We partnered with the CCC to buy the Ghio property which was then transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1995 as a part of the refuge system.

SWIA has been a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Otay Valley Regional Park since 1988. The non profit has been actively involved in developing the interrelationship between park and refuge lands as the process moves forward.

SWIA worked with the City of Imperial Beach and the CCC to plan and begin implementation of an ecotourism program which is linked with the Bayshore Bikeway. The segment from 13th Street in Imperial Beach to the Salt Works Building will be started in the fall of 2007. This is an important link between the Refuge, Otay River Park and its corridor, the Western Salt Building and the potential excursion train staging area.

The excursion train will enable a transit system and ecotourism opportunity between National City and Imperial Beach. Access will be available to the public along the route both on and off the train to historical and environmental attractions. This will include the railroad museum, Paradise Marsh, Chula Vista Visitor Center, Sweetwater Marsh, Sweetwater River, Western Saltworks Building, USFWS interpretive center, the Wildlife Refuge the Otay River Park and Bayshore Bikeway staging areas.

SWIA sees all these opportunities essential to making the South Bay an eco friendly area. Not only will this encourage access and recreation but it will help educate the public about the importance of maintaining and protecting sensitive and vital resources in this region. It will boost the neighboring economies and be invaluable to surrounding cities, particularly Imperial Beach.

The Association strongly supports disbursement of funds to SANDAG for conducting the study.

Sincerely,

Michael A. McCoy, Vice President
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association



October 25, 2006

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: WESTERN SALT WORKS SITE ASSESSMENT AND SOUTH SAN DIEGO
BAY TRAIL LINKAGES

Daniel D. Beintema
Director

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I take this opportunity to write in support of the Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation to provide funding to the San Diego Association of Governments to study the area near the mouth of the Otay River in south San Diego Bay as it relates to the alternative use of the Western Salt Works building and the alignment of adjacent trails.

Next steps for the completion of the Bayshore Bikeway are needed in order to connect critical sections of the existing route. In addition, having an eye toward practical future use of the Western Salt Works building for interpretive facilities, would greatly enhance regional attractiveness to tourists and residents alike. In encompassing these elements, the study will be invaluable.

Given its proximity to the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Bikeway, the Otay Valley Regional Park, and the Bay itself, the Western Salt Building appears to be in an ideal location to highlight the history of solar salt production in San Diego Bay, as well as the natural history of the wildlife inhabiting the Refuge. These elements complement the mission of the Chula Vista Nature Center and serve to underscore themes of coastal resource conservation while embracing our rich history.

The concepts proposed are highly worthy of further study by SANDAG. Accordingly, I urge your support and offer my thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Beintema

Chula Vista
Nature Center
1000 Gunpowder Pt Dr.
Chula Vista,
California 91910-1201

*Serving, Preserving
...Naturally!*



CITY OF CORONADO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
1825 STRAND WAY
CORONADO, CA 92118

TOM SMISEK
MAYOR
(619) 522-7322

October 25, 2006

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Western Salt Works Site Assessment and South San Diego Bay Trail Linkages

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my full support of the Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation to study the area of south San Diego Bay near the mouth of the Otay River. This study will help determine the best alignments of public trails and the practicability of the possible future use of the Western Salt Works building for interpretive facilities.

The Western Salt Works Building is a landmark in South San Diego County and it is currently under consideration for a Historical Designation. It is the perfect location for an interpretive center showing the diversity of San Diego Bay wildlife and/or solar salt production. Coronado hopes that the use of the Salt Works building for an interpretive center will help raise the bar throughout the county on the importance of history and education for tourists and residents alike. This study can help verify the location to be a perfect fit with those wishes.

The proposed study area includes a section of the Bayshore Bikeway, a regional amenity that encircles San Diego Bay. Coronado is an active member of SANDAG's Bayshore Bikeway Working Group. As Mayor, I strongly support linking the Bikeway to other Regional Trails and developing staging areas near the Salt Works Building.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this proposed study and I hope that you find it a worthy cause to fund.

Sincerely,

Tom Smisek
Mayor

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: City Council



Save Our Heritage Organisation

Saving San Diego's Past for the Future

2476 San Diego Avenue • San Diego CA 92110 • www.sohosandiego.org
619/297-9327 • 619/291-3576 fax

October 25, 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Montes, *President*

David Swarens, *Vice President*

Jessica McGee, *Treasurer*

John Eisenhart, *Secretary*

Directors

Erik Hanson, *Ex-officio*

Courtney Ann Coyle

Curt Drake

Allen Hazard

Peter L.P. Janopaul III

Welton Jones

Martha Jordan

Michael Kravcar

John Oldenkamp

Jim Schibanoff

Mary Wendorf

Bruce Coons,
Executive Director

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

RE: WESTERN SALT WORKS SITE ASSESSMENT AND SOUTH SAN DIEGO
BAY TRAIL LINKAGES. File No. 06-081

We are writing to express our support of staff's recommendation of \$125,000 to be allocated to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for the adaptive reuse study of the Western Salt Building and adjacent trail alignments.

The Western Salt Works Building, which is being considered by San Diego's Historic Resources Board for designation and has been deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, is located on the bayfront in South San Diego Bay. This historic site is located at the confluence of the Otay River and the Otay Valley Regional Park, the Bayshore Bikeway and the Coronado Railroad (1888), a railroad designated historic by the City of San Diego.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently completing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Western Salt Building is also immediately adjacent to the Refuge.

Given its proximity to the Refuge, the Bikeway and the Otay Valley Regional Park and its ideal location on San Diego Bay, we believe the Western Salt Building is well suited for adaptive reuse to highlight the history of solar salt production in San Diego Bay, the West Coast and the natural history of the wildlife inhabiting the Refuge. This concept can yield great benefits for the citizens and visitors to California and deserves further study by SANDAG. We fully support the Coastal Conservancy's funding of this study, which is in keeping with the Conservancy's goals and objectives. We respectfully request your support of this item as it would greatly enhance the public's enjoyment of our natural and cultural resources.

If you have any questions regarding the Western Salt Building project and its benefits or the associated trails, please do not hesitate to call me at 619-297-9327.

Sincerely,

Bruce Coons
Executive Director